

Minutes of the Special Budget Town Board Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on September 27, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the LaFayette Commons Office Building at 2577 Route 11 in the Town of LaFayette

Present: Gregory Scammell, Supervisor
David Knapp, Councilman
Thomas Bailey, Councilman
Adrian Shute, Councilman

Absent: William McConnell, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

Others Present: Thomas Chartrand, Bookkeeper
Jim Moore, DCO
Pat Keefe, Informational Officer
Theresa Mech, Tax Collector/LCC
April Palmer, LCC
Marshall Taylor, Assessor
John Whitty, Jamesville Fire District

Supervisor Scammell called the Special Town Board Budget Meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

The Town Clerk took the Roll. Councilman Knapp arrived 5:15 p.m. all else present.

The following people were present to discuss their budgets.

Animal Control (Jim Moore)

Jim Moore said there is an increase under the SPCA amount. He believes there needs to be an increase in mileage.

Councilman Bailey asked how he logs his mileage.

Jim said by response. Every call he goes on is from his house to the destination.

Tom Chartrand said we are at \$1,800 this year for SPCA fees. Our first bill came in during the month of March.

Jim Moore asked if the mileage allowance will be going up or down.

Supervisor Scammell said we usually go by the federal rate.

Jim said he logged in 2,195 miles this year.

Receiver of Taxes (Teresa Mech)

Teresa said she made no changes in her budget.

Jamesville Fire Dist. (John Whitty)

John Whitty said they have requested a 5 % increase for their coverage in the LaFayette Protection District. They are currently running about 15% of their calls strictly in LaFayette.

Supervisor Scammell asked about how many calls here they do.

John said last year they were just over 400 calls and 15 % of these were in the Town of LaFayette. It's a little less this year.

Councilman Bailey asked if they break that out by the fire and EMS calls.

John said 91% are EMS calls. They currently have 9 EMT's on staff.

Councilman Bailey asked if any federal or state grants have come through in the past year.

John said they got a federal grant for an air station which they fill their tanks with. They are looking at plans to redo the station completely and are looking for some grants to help with this. It would be for bigger bays and more equipment.

Councilman Bailey asked if they are proposing an expansion.

John said it started out that way and is now a rebuild. This is taxpayer willing.

Information Officer (Pat Keefe)

Pat Keefe was present.

Supervisor Scammell asked about how many copies of the Newsletter we run each quarter.

Pat said 2,200.

Councilman Knapp asked if it has been growing or staying the same.

Pat said we are probably printing 400 more than we used to.

Councilman Knapp asked about the content.

Pat said the number of pages is growing too.

Councilman Shute asked if we are on budget for this.

Tom Chartrand said yes. Last year we were at \$14,900 and this year it looks like we will be a little less.

Assessors (Mary Doster, Marshall Taylor, James Munnell)

Marshall Taylor was present.

Supervisor Scammell noted they anticipate legal fees might be up a little.

Marshall said they put in \$4,000 every year but last year the Board decreased it to \$1,000.

Tom Chartrand said they have exceeded the \$1,000 with the last legal bills received on Monday.

Marshall asked if the Board is anticipating any money for pay raises or are we strictly dealing with cost of living alone?

Supervisor Scammell said the Board hasn't discussed this yet.

Marshall said traditionally they have only gotten cost of living. The roll has grown and there's a lot more responsibility now. There's an increase in the roll of 26 %. Cost of living just keeps you up with whatever inflation is, it doesn't really give you a pay raise. The Assessor's haven't received a raise in several years.

Councilman Bailey asked about the pictometry.

Marshall said he took it out of the budget because the Board wasn't interested.

Councilman Bailey said he never said he wasn't interested in this.

Marshall said we could have had it cheaper last year but the Board didn't want it.

Councilman Bailey said they made a collective decision at the time. If it's not in for the 2007 budget, they can't consider it.

Marshall said this is the first he has heard anyone from the Board be interested. Last year the county would have paid for ½ of it.

Supervisor Scammell asked him to give an explanation of pictometry.

Marshall said pictometry is a flyover of the whole town. It gives you actual tax map overlays.

Councilman Shute asked if this would be stored digitally.

Marshall said yes and it would be available to everyone.

Councilman Shute asked if it could be accessed from any PC.

Marshall said yes. There is no flyover this year. They probably won't be flying over again for 2 more years. You can do square footage, distance and physically see all kinds of things with this.

Councilman Shute said without them already doing it, it would cost a lot more for us to do it ourselves.

Marshall said yes. To do it ourselves would cost about \$10,000. If you go in with the county, it would be much cheaper. He would be happy to put \$4,000 in the budget for this the next time they do a flyover.

Recreation Dept. (April Palmer, Teresa Mech)

The Color Guard is a new program.

Councilman Knapp asked how many participants they had.

April Palmer said 27.

Teresa Mech said the new item of Park Maintenance was proposed by Councilman McConnell. This year they shared Jamie Manley with the Highway Dept. to do the fields, etc. It was suggested that they have someone to maintenance for all the parks under Community Council and that person would report to Regina Reinschmidt. This would be from April through October. This would be \$9.50/hour for 20 hours a week for 22 weeks during the year.

Councilman Knapp said there is a possible person interested in this.

April Palmer said we need to keep better care of the fields.

Tom Chartrand asked if this would affect Mr. Puttkamer's position.

Councilman Knapp said probably not.

Supervisor Scammell noted the guardhouse repairs are to be determined.

Councilman Knapp said he has quotes coming for fixing the guardhouse and for putting a roof over the sandbox.

Teresa Mech said depending on the cost, she believes we are going to make a decision whether this will be done through Community Council or shared with the town.

April said ownership of the Beach and lacrosse box has still not quite been figured out. She would like to have some resolution to this. The box really needs some major work. She knows we have gone back and forth about moving the box. There are pros and cons to both.

Supervisor Scammell said he will put this on the regular Town Board Agenda.

April said if we do put on a parks person full-time who will be reporting to Regina, it might be good to look at her income again. This may need to be addressed in the future.

A student from Syracuse University was present. She is doing an article on the 121st Assembly District. She would like to ask some questions about the concerns people might have in this District. She would just like to know if there is an issue everyone is concerned about. She would like to know of any voter concerns.

Councilman Knapp said a lot of times telling the town to do things but not giving them the financial help to do them is a concern. There definitely are issues with some prevailing wage laws that they are putting into effect. This is a state set wage for a certain job. It could potentially impact our municipal trash service.

The student asked about tax cuts.

Councilman Knapp said he would love them. Income Tax and Sales Tax are a way of life but the one people have the most concern about locally is property tax.

The student said she's been reading a lot about that. She is from downstate New York and didn't realize how high they are here.

Councilman Knapp said any help from the state to make the pie bigger and not just fall on the property owner would go a long way. It's a ripple effect on businesses, etc.

The Board discussed the 2006 budget proposals.

Councilmen Knapp moved and Shute seconded the motion to authorize the Town Engineer to do a walk-through of the corner building not to exceed 2 hours at \$125/hour for a total not to exceed \$250 to see determine if an environmental assessment is required. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Knapp moved and Shute seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

The Special Town Board Budget Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly
Town Clerk

Adopted 10/17/06